ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A comprehensive, multi-dimensional graphical user interface (GUI) using metadata provides for multiple methods and displays for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database. The main level display 100, which is linked to other level displays has in the preferred embodiment, a hierarchical picture grouping iconic region (104) with directories and files containing pictures in the database, a main display area (102) for displaying pictures, thumbnails and graphical browsers, a picture content iconic region (106) according to predefined content categories and picture metadata, and a graphical browser region (108) having indicia of the graphical browsers utilized by the GUI. In addition to the main level (100), the present-inventive GUI also has a number of display levels linked to the main display level (100) via one or more icons (104, 106, 108 and 110) in the main display level.

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